

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Michael Mukasey
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

We are writing you to express our strong support for the recently created United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), and to urge the Department of Justice to provide operational and technical assistance to the CICIG.

The CICIG – which was approved by the Guatemalan Congress on August 1, 2007 – was created to address the serious issue of impunity in Guatemala. The CICIG has the mandate of investigating and promoting the prosecution of illegal security organizations in Guatemala. These powerful, clandestine groups are allegedly responsible for drug trafficking, political violence and frequent attacks against human rights defenders. The CICIG has received strong support both in Guatemala and internationally. In the United States, both the Bush Administration and Democrats and Republicans in Congress have expressed enthusiasm about the CICIG.

The CICIG is now up and running under the able leadership of Commissioner Carlos Castresana, who will need the support of the international community in carrying out his duties. In the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress provided \$4 million to the CICIG. While the CICIG is on track in meeting its budgetary goals, it still lacks the necessary technical capacity to carry out much of its work. In particular, the CICIG will need criminal investigators with expertise in forensics, financial crimes and drug trafficking. We urge the Department of Justice to provide detailees to the CICIG from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other agencies on a case-by-case basis to provide investigatory expertise. While supporting the CICIG's mission, we believe that our contribution should not negatively impact U.S. domestic operations.

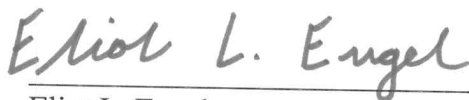
Witness and victim protection is another key area in which the CICIG will need assistance. We have serious concerns about the significant personal threats that Guatemalan witnesses and victims working with the CICIG may face. We, therefore, ask that the Department of Justice provide technical assistance to the CICIG to help it develop a witness and victim protection program. The Justice Department could draw on its expertise from its work on similar programs in Colombia.

Finally, it is important to note that many of the cases that the CICIG will examine will have some kind of connection to the United States, especially those cases involving money laundering and drug trafficking. In some cases, the Justice Department will already have investigations underway into persons who will be investigated by the CICIG. In other cases, Guatemalans with ties to the criminal networks being investigated by the CICIG may be serving sentences for crimes committed in the United States.

Therefore, we believe it is crucial that the Justice Department collaborate closely with the CICIG in sharing relevant information and evidence.

We urge you to provide the CICIG with the assistance it needs to carry out its important mandate. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.


Sincerely,



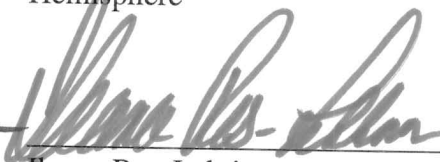
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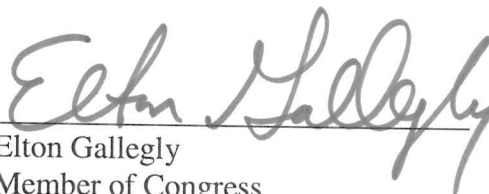
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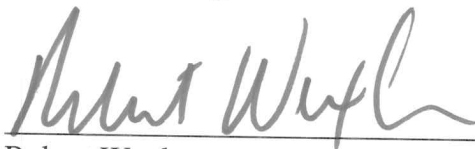
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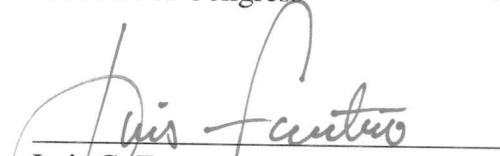
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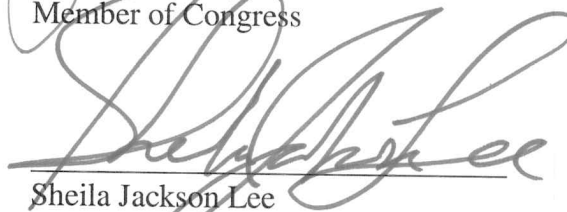
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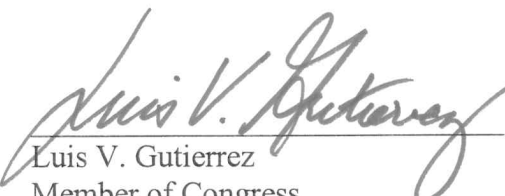


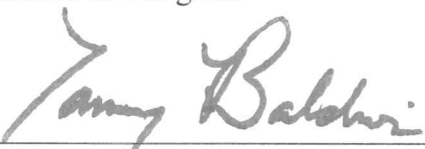
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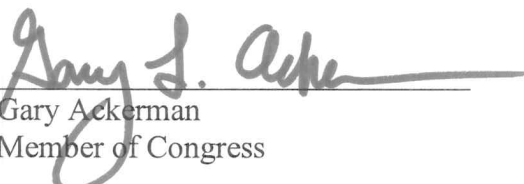
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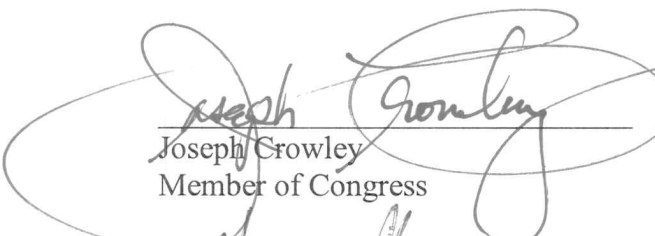

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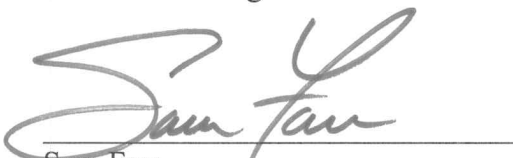

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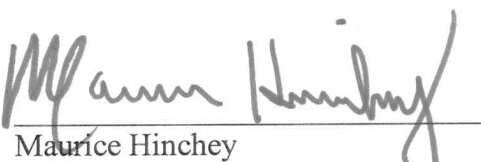

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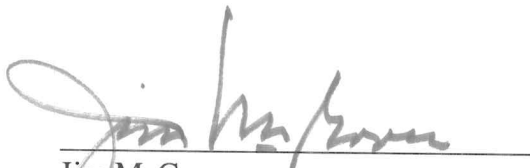

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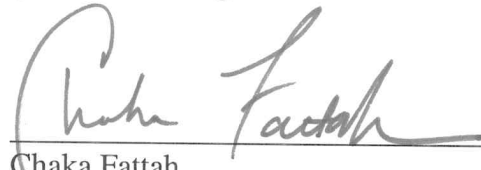

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